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8 January 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, REPORTS AND ESTIMATES:

SUBJECT: Proposal for Research Project Concerning the Government and Politics of six Latin American Republics

1. This project, if approved and successfully executed, would result in the preparation -- under direction sufficiently close to protect CIG's interest -- of political science treatises on the government and politics of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, and Uruguay.
2. Satisfactory treatises on the government and politics of the six countries mentioned are not now available. In the absence of a lead from some US Government agency and at least a modest subsidy, such treatises are not likely to be undertaken within the predictable future.
3. The finished treatises, if executed in such fashion as to meet the highest standards of research and analysis in the field of political science, would greatly facilitate the reading of political trends in Latin America, and would therefore prove highly useful to the Latin American Branch of CIG. While the precise content and organization of the treatises would be determined by a committee yet to be appointed (see below, paragraph 5.2), each would include as a matter of course an analysis of the history, organization, program, leadership and popular following of the political parties of the country in question, a study of the impact upon government and politics in that country of the power, wealth, and position of Hemisphere leadership of the United States, and studies of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government in operation (i. e., in descriptive not legal terms).
4. The research and writing task in question should be performed by local scholars (US scholars with relevant training are in short supply, few US scholars with relevant training possess the necessary language skills, the expense of sending US scholars to the countries in question and keeping them there long enough to do the job would be prohibitive, local scholars would bring to the

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SECRET

-2-

task valuable first-hand knowledge of the local situations). Since, however, Latin American political science is still in its infancy, the planning of the treatises and a certain degree of editorial control over their content should be entrusted to US scholars in the field of comparative government. These US scholars should also participate in the selection of the persons who are to do the research and writing job.

5. The undersigned believes that the necessary planning and editorial control over the research for and writing of the six books could be accomplished by

a causing the appointment of a committee of US comparative government scholars, who would draw up a basic questionnaire calculated to elicit the desired information;

b retaining the services of Latin American scholars in kindred research fields (history, economics, sociology, geography, etc.) who are also successful writers; and

c making payment for their service conditional upon scrupulous execution of the questionnaire.

6. Since CIG's interest in the project could become known only at great cost both to CIG and to future US-sponsored research in Latin America, careful thought would have to be given to

a the possible wisdom of asking Mr. Benton's office to assume responsibility for the project;

b the possible wisdom of asking Mr. Eddy's organization to assume responsibility for the project;

c the possible wisdom -- entirely apart from the question of what US Government agency should become responsible for the project -- of causing one of the large university presses to sponsor the project, name the committee of US scholars, engage the authors, and make payment to them in the form of advance royalties to be paid e. g. in fourths as parts of the questionnaire were completed, of funds received for this purpose;

d the possible wisdom of approaching a philanthropist interested in Latin America (Mr. Nelson Rockefeller, for example) and

SECRET

SECRET
-3-

asking him to supply the necessary funds in order to avoid all possibility of future embarrassment for the Government of the United States.

(The undersigned believes a that an advance royalty of \$1000 per volume would be adequate, and b that a university press would undertake the project if subsidized in the amount of \$6000, the total of the advance royalties.)

7. The undersigned believes that CIQ would best insure its interest in the project through careful attention to the contents of the basic questionnaire.

8. The undersigned has reason to believe that either the University of Oklahoma Press or the University of Minnesota Press would be willing to undertake the project on the above terms. He further has reason to believe that Professor Herman Finer of the University of Chicago, the leading English-speaking scholar in the field of comparative government, would welcome an invitation to participate in the preparation of the basic questionnaire.

(signed) WILLMOORE KENDALL

Willmoore Kendall
Chief, Latin American Branch

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